

Rio Grande Basin, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas

(General Investigations)

Section 729 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 authorized basin studies.

The Rio Grande Basin is located in the states of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas, and encompasses an area over 160,000 square miles, from the Rio Grande's headwaters in central Colorado to its mouth on the Gulf of Mexico near Brownsville, TX. Water conveyance and delivery, ecosystem degradation, and flooding are major issues in the basin. Water supply and flood control in the Rio Grande Basin fall under the management and jurisdiction of an international treaty and several Federal, State and local agencies. The study will identify ways to integrate the programs, policies, and resources of all concerned agencies into a multi-objective water resources plan.

The Phase I project in New Mexico was completed in June 2004. The Rio Grande's "Forgotten River Reach", from Fort Quitman to Presidio, Texas will define the extent of the problems of this portion of the Rio Grande, and will examine the preliminary feasibility of various ecosystem restoration strategies, including salt cedar removal and control. This reach has been severely impacted by salt cedar, to the point of no longer clearly delineating the international boundary with Mexico. The feasibility study is scheduled to be completed in FY 2008.

Continue negotiations with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission to initiate studies on another portion of the Rio Grande in New Mexico in FY 2007.

The study is funded under the General Investigations appropriation.

Salazar, CO -03

Reyes, TX-16

Wilson, NM-01

Rodriguez, TX-23

Pearce, NM-02

Udall, NM-03

